

English II Writing

Administered April 2013

RELEASED

WRITING

Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question. Then fill in the answer on your answer document.

In the following paper Ben writes about how an act of kindness changed his outlook toward others. Read Ben's paper and think about how he should revise it. Then answer the questions that follow.



The Spark

(1) They say just one spark can start a fire. (2) That may be true of a forest fire, but I had no idea that it could also be true for people until a spark touched my life.

(3) With my dad out of work and three kids at home, times were tough. (4) They tried to hide how bad things were, but I was too old to be fooled. (5) I knew there were days when they didn't know how they were going to buy groceries. (6) Then one afternoon I opened the mailbox and saw a stack of green bills sitting there. (7) Attached was a note that simply read "Pay it forward." (8) When I brought the money inside, my whole family just sat in shock for a few minutes. (9) Then we gave thanks for the generosity of a stranger.

(10) Next we talked. (11) Before long, we were thinking of all sorts of things we could do to help others. (12) Each family member decided to pay it forward in a different way. (13) My younger sister gathered books to donate to an after-school program, and my brother mowed an elderly neighbor's lawn. (14) Dad and I fixed another neighbor's fence, and Mom offered to babysit for a single mother who had gone back to school to get a degree. (15) With each act of kindness, we

told the story of how we had been helped, and we challenged the recipients to help someone else.

(16) Within a matter of days, we started to hear stories of others who had benefited from a spark of kindness. (17) The man whose fence we fixed told us how he helped another friend clean out her garage. (18) The kids in the after-school program for the residents of a retirement center made cards. (19) The elderly neighbor made cookies for a community bake sale. (20) And the single mom joined some fellow students who were spearheading a winter coat drive for the homeless.

(21) It really did take just a spark to get a fire going. (22) I'll probably never know who first lit that flame, but I do know that I'll never be the same. (23) I've learned two important lessons that will affect the rest of my life. (24) First, a spark of kindness can spread very quickly. (25) And second, you don't have to be rich to be a part of something that really matters.

- 1 The best way to clarify the meaning of sentence 4 is to change **They** to —
- A The newspapers
 - B My parents
 - C We
 - D The kids
-

- 2 Ben realized that he left the following detail out of the second paragraph (sentences 3–9).

I counted them and realized I was holding more than \$200 in cash.

Where is the most effective place to insert this sentence?

- F After sentence 5
 - G After sentence 6
 - H After sentence 7
 - J After sentence 8
-
- 3 The transition from the second paragraph (sentences 3–9) to the third paragraph (sentences 10–15) is weak. Read both paragraphs again. Which sentence could best replace sentence 10 and improve the transition between these two paragraphs?
- A Suddenly it was obvious that we all had a lot that we needed to talk about.
 - B This stranger had given us cash, something our family had been without for a very long time.
 - C Soon we began talking about what the note had instructed us to do: pay it forward.
 - D We wanted to think of some unusual ways to help others.

- 4** What is the most effective revision to make in sentence 18?
- F** The kids in the after-school program made cards they were for the residents of a retirement center.
 - G** The kids in the after-school program and the residents of a retirement center made cards.
 - H** The kids in the after-school program made cards for the residents of a retirement center.
 - J** The kids in the after-school program of a retirement center made cards for the residents.

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- 5** Ben wants to add a closing sentence to reinforce the controlling idea of his paper. Which of the following ideas could best follow sentence 25 and help accomplish this goal?
- A** You just have to be willing to pay it forward.
 - B** You don't have to start the fire; you just have to be a spark.
 - C** It doesn't take money to be a highly effective person.
 - D** Hard work always pays off in the end.

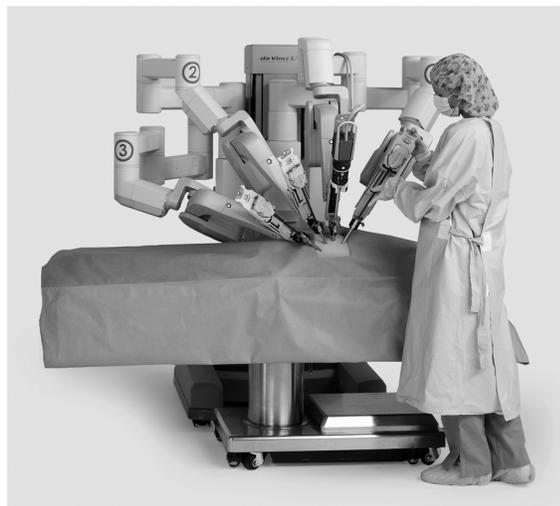
Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question. Then fill in the answer on your answer document.

Zane wrote the following paper about a new breakthrough in the medical field. Read Zane's paper and look for any revisions he should make. Then answer the questions that follow.

Robots in Surgery

(1) Many years ago a doctor always had to make a large incision when performing surgery inside a human body. (2) In the 1980s medical advances led to the rise of a different kind of surgery, laparoscopic surgery. (3) With this innovative technique surgeons used long instruments, which were inserted through much smaller incisions. (4) Sophisticated cameras produced pictures on video monitors that the surgeons used to see the area of the body where they were working. (5) This new kind of surgery caused less pain and blood loss for patients and allowed a quicker return to normal life. (6) However, laparoscopic surgery had room for improvement. (7) For example, the two-dimensional image provided by the camera limited the surgeon's depth perception. (8) In addition, during long surgeries, fatigue caused some doctors to experience hand tremors, which are amplified when long instruments are used. (9) Surgeons appreciated the benefits of laparoscopic surgery, but they were concerned about these and other problems.

(10) Robotic surgery refers to any surgery that makes use of robots. (11) The first robotic surgical system approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, the da Vinci, improved laparoscopic surgery by providing better precision and visualization. (12) The da Vinci consists of two main parts: a viewing and control console and a surgical arm unit, which contains several extensions. (13) To use the system, the surgeon makes three or four small incisions in a patient, and the surgeon then inserts stainless-steel rods into the openings. (14) One rod holds a camera that provides a



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three-dimensional video image. (15) The other rods hold a variety of surgical instruments that have the ability to cut and suture tissue inside the body. (16) The surgeon sits at a console a few feet away from the patient and the robot. (17) The surgeon's hands aren't on the instruments or the rods; they're on controls that look like joysticks. (18) The surgeon looks into a magnified video screen and tweaks the controls. (19) The da Vinci mimics every movement the surgeon makes.

(20) What is the future of this new kind of surgery? (21) If the da Vinci can be controlled from 10 feet away, could it be controlled from 100 feet away? (22) What about 100 miles away? (23) Could this be a way to provide better medical care to people? (24) Today's surgical robots are too large and bulky for these kinds of uses. (25) Furthermore, the technology isn't reliable enough yet to be used for robotic surgery in distant locations. (26) Although these and many other questions are still unanswered, it seems clear that robotics will play an important role in the future of medicine. (27) It will be interesting to see how this new technology evolves and how it will affect our lives someday.

6 Zane wants to add a sentence to the end of the first paragraph (sentences 1–9) to better articulate the thesis of his paper. Consider the paper as a whole, paying careful attention to the first and second paragraphs. Which of the following ideas would best follow sentence 9 and express a controlling idea in this paper?

- F Laparoscopic surgery is an important process that is now new and improved.
 - G Robotic surgery, an enhanced form of laparoscopic surgery, offered solutions to some of these problems.
 - H Most doctors would call laparoscopic surgery a huge success, even with its problems.
 - J Solutions were needed immediately.
-

7 What is the best way to revise sentence 13?

- A To use the system, the surgeon, while making three or four small incisions in a patient, inserts stainless-steel rods into the openings.
 - B To use the system, the surgeon makes three or four small incisions in a patient who inserts stainless-steel rods into the openings.
 - C To use the system, the surgeon makes three or four small incisions in a patient she then inserts stainless-steel rods into the openings.
 - D To use the system, the surgeon makes three or four small incisions in a patient and then inserts stainless-steel rods into the openings.
-

8 Zane needs to use a more appropriate word than **tweaks** in sentence 18. Which of these words would be the best replacement for **tweaks**?

- F corrects
- G manipulates
- H does
- J changes

- 9** Zane wants to provide more detail in sentence 23. Which of the following could replace sentence 23 and best accomplish this goal?
- A** Could this be a way to provide and give better medical care to people who may really need it today?
 - B** Could this be a method for providing better and improved medical care to people who live in places outside the United States?
 - C** Could this be a way to provide better medical care to people in rural communities, war zones, or isolated parts of the world?
 - D** Could this be a way for excited and engaged doctors to provide enriched medical care to people and patients whom they care so much about?

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- 10** Zane wants to add some questions after sentence 25 to help close this paper. Which of the following could best be added after sentence 25?
- F** But what about 20 or 30 years from now? Could robotics provide treatments that are unheard of today?
 - G** What is technology used for today? How will it be used when you are an adult?
 - H** Are there places that are too remote to get a connection? Are there people who don't even have access to a computer?
 - J** Does your computer always work? Can you depend on technology when you need it?

Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question. Then fill in the answer on your answer document.

Kate wrote the following paper in response to a class assignment. In her paper Kate hopes to persuade readers to learn a second language. Read Kate's paper and look for the revisions she should make. Then answer the questions that follow.

Language Lesson

(1) Did you know that if you lived in Europe, you would probably be able to speak at least two languages by now? (2) In the United States, however, many teens have been able to get away with speaking only English. (3) But the world is changing, and today's high-school students need to change with it. (4) Get with the program now!

(5) Learning another language, especially at a young age, is beneficial to many other kinds of learning. (6) Numerous studies have supported a correlation between foreign-language study and academic achievement. (7) One such study found that native English speakers in a Spanish immersion program significantly outperformed monolingual English-speaking students on English vocabulary tests. (8) This study was published in the *Journal of Educational Psychology*. (9) Other studies have shown that high-school students who study a foreign language score higher on college entrance exams, such as the SAT and ACT. (10) The evidence further suggests that the more years a student studies a foreign language, the higher the student's scores.

(11) Learning another language also allows students to interact with people of different ethnicities, countries, and histories. (12) My youth group regularly travels to Central America to serve in an impoverished community, and my knowledge of Spanish has made it possible for me to converse with the people there. (13) I've been able to learn about their lives, their culture, and their needs. (14) Working with people in these communities on a personal level has been a growth experience for me, one that I think has made me a more open and compassionate person.

(15) Finally, speaking a second language will be essential for those who hope to excel in today's global marketplace. (16) With computers, online networking, and streaming video, people from all over the world are more interconnected than

ever. (17) People all over the world are now working together through the Internet. (18) More and more businesses are working closely with companies in other countries. (19) Employers need workers who can communicate in different languages and different cultures are understood. (20) Such skills will open doors not only in the field of business but also in medicine, technology, teaching, and military communication. (21) Regardless of the path you choose, you'll have a distinct advantage if you know a second language.

(22) So start paying attention in your Spanish, French, Japanese, or other foreign-language class. (23) In our expanding world one of the best things you can do for yourself is improve your communication skills.

- 11** Sentence 4 is a weak attempt at a thesis statement. How can Kate revise this sentence to more clearly establish the thesis of her paper?
- A** Every single American kid needs to and must learn another language today.
 - B** Learning another language will change the lives of American kids, as well as the lives of their parents and neighbors.
 - C** It's important to learn another language so that you'll be able to communicate in the global market that will surely be part of your future.
 - D** Every American teenager should learn at least one other language, for both personal and professional benefit.
-

- 12** What is the most effective way to combine sentences 7 and 8?
- F** One such study, published in the *Journal of Educational Psychology*, found that native English speakers in a Spanish immersion program significantly outperformed monolingual English-speaking students on English vocabulary tests.
 - G** One such study found that native English speakers in a Spanish immersion program significantly outperformed monolingual English-speaking students on English vocabulary tests and published in the *Journal of Educational Psychology*.
 - H** One such study found that native English speakers in a Spanish immersion program significantly outperformed monolingual English-speaking students on English vocabulary tests, which was published in the *Journal of Educational Psychology*.
 - J** One such study found that native English speakers in a Spanish immersion program published in the *Journal of Educational Psychology* significantly outperformed monolingual English-speaking students on English vocabulary tests.
-

- 13** What transition could most effectively be added to the beginning of sentence 12?
- A** To put it differently
 - B** Still
 - C** Otherwise
 - D** For example

14 What is the most effective revision to make in sentence 19?

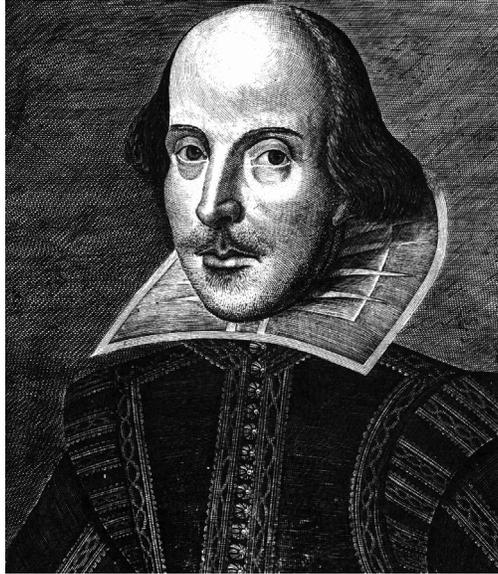
- F** Employers need workers who can communicate in different languages, different cultures should be understood.
- G** Employers need workers who can communicate in different languages and understand different cultures.
- H** Employers need workers who can communicate and are understood in different languages or different cultures.
- J** Employers need workers who can communicate in different languages, and workers need employers who can understand different cultures.

15 Kate thinks there is a sentence in the fourth paragraph (sentences 15–21) that should be deleted. Reread the paragraph. Which sentence, if any, should be deleted from this paragraph?

- A** Sentence 17
- B** Sentence 18
- C** Sentence 20
- D** No sentence should be deleted from the paragraph.

Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question. Then fill in the answer on your answer document.

In the following paper, Conner wants to persuade students who are unfamiliar with William Shakespeare's plays to give them a chance. Read Conner's first draft and look for the corrections he needs to make. Then answer the questions that follow.



In Support of Shakespeare

(1) My English teacher was handing out copies of William Shakespeare's *Hamlet*. (2) "Argh!" a few classmates groaned softly. (3) Some students grumble when first faced with studying one of Shakespeare's plays. (4) Before last year I grumbled with them. (5) I assumed that reading a work by Shakespeare would be a tedious task one that was unrelated to my own life and times. (6) However, reading *Romeo and Juliet* in freshman English changed my perspective. (7) Now I want to convince others that the plays of Shakespeare is timeless, entertaining, and actually quite accessible.

(8) First, I would like to address the often-heard complaint that Shakespeare's work is no longer relevant. (9) Although Shakespeare wrote in the late 1500s and early 1600s and set *Romeo and Juliet* in the 1300s, students today can still relate to this play's themes, plot, and characters. (10) My friends and I may not be wealthy young royals walking down Verona's streets, but we walk the halls of our schools, and we've experienced similar situations and feelings. (11) Many of us

have been swept away by a first love, misunderstood by our parents, and determined to follow our own hearts and minds. (12) It's true that I live thousands of miles and hundreds of years from the setting of *Romeo and Juliet*. (13) Still, I empathized with Romeo when he saw Juliet on her balcony and whispered longingly, "See, how she leans her cheek upon her hand! (14) O, that I were a glove upon that hand, that I might touch that cheek!"

(15) But there's another reason to like Shakespeare's work. (16) Most teens love books and movies that are filled with action and excitement, and Shakespeare's plays are full of both. (17) One memorable scene from Act II of *Romeo and Juliet* brings Romeo's sharp-tongued pal Mercutio face-to-face with Juliet's hot-blooded cousin Tybalt. (18) Mercutio baits Tybalt, he calls him names and provokes a fight. (19) "Tybalt, you rat-catcher, will you walk?" (20) Not one to back down, Tybalt answers, "I am for you." (21) In the next shocking moment, Mercutio stumbles off, mortally wounded by Tybalt's sword. (22) Hearing that his friend has died, an enraged Romeo turns on Tybalt. (23) What begun as two young men taunting each other ends in tragedy. (24) Like the action in many of today's most popular books and movies, the plot is unexpected, dramatic, and exciting.

(25) Finally, I want to assure my grumbling classmates that, contrary to popular opinion, Shakespeare isn't hard to understand. (26) Indeed, any extra effort is worthwhile, considering the beauty of the words and the images they create. (27) For example, Romeo doesn't describe Juliet's beauty by exclaiming, "Wow, you're pretty!" (28) He says, "Arise, fair sun, and kill the envious moon, who is already sick and pale with grief, that thou her maid art far more fair than she." (29) The poetic comparison is vivid, and Romeo's insistence that Juliet is even lovelier than the moon eloquently emphasizes his infatuation.

(30) So when my teacher handed out *Hamlet* that day, I didn't worry about struggling through a boring tale with outdated characters. (31) Instead, I looked forward to being captivated by a riveting drama full of excitement. (32) I was ready to meet the famous Prince Hamlet and find out what we had in common.

16 What change, if any, should be made in sentence 5?

- F Change ***tedious*** to **tedeous**
 - G Insert a comma after ***task***
 - H Change ***unrelated*** to **unrelatted**
 - J No change should be made in this sentence.
-

17 What change needs to be made in sentence 7?

- A Change ***others*** to **other's**
 - B Change ***is*** to **are**
 - C Change ***quite*** to **quiet**
 - D Change ***accessible*** to **accessable**
-

18 What change, if any, needs to be made in sentence 12?

- F Change ***Its*** to **It's**
- G Change ***thousands*** to **thousand's**
- H Insert a comma after ***miles***
- J Sentence 12 does not need to be changed.

19 What is the correct way to write sentence 18?

- A Mercutio baits Tybalt. Who calls him names and provokes a fight.
- B Mercutio baits Tybalt by calling him names. Which is provoking a fight.
- C Mercutio baits Tybalt, calling him names and provoking a fight.
- D Sentence 18 is written correctly in the paper.

20 What change, if any, needs to be made in sentence 22?

- F Change ***Hearing*** to **He heard**
- G Delete the comma
- H Change ***enragged*** to **enraged**
- J No change needs to be made in sentence 22.

21 What change, if any, needs to be made in sentence 23?

- A Change ***begun*** to **began**
- B Insert a comma after ***other***
- C Change ***tragedy*** to **trajedy**
- D No change needs to be made in sentence 23.

22 What change, if any, should be made in sentence 30?

F Delete the comma

G Change *through* to **threw**

H Change *boring* to **borring**

J No change should be made in sentence 30.

Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question. Then fill in the answer on your answer document.

Abby wrote the following paper in response to a class assignment. Proofread Abby's paper and look for any mistakes she has made. Then answer the questions that follow.



© AP Photo/SICS Italian School of Canine Lifeguards

A New Breed of Lifeguard: Rescue Dogs

(1) It's summer in Italy, and the beaches of Civitavecchia near Rome are filled with hundreds of people. (2) It's the kind of day for fun in the surf. (3) It's also the kind of day when some swimmers are likely to need assistance. (4) Fortunately, the human lifeguards on this beach have support. (5) The Italian National Civil Protection agency has launched a program for a new breed of lifeguards—a canine rescue squad.

(6) Today, about 300 canine lifeguards are trained and ready to carry out rescues along the coast of Italy. (7) Several branches of the Italian School of Canine Lifeguards, including the one in Civitavecchia teach dogs to paddle to the aid of swimmers in trouble. (8) The school will train any type of dog that weighs at least 66 pounds and has a docile, obedient nature, it favors Labradors, Newfoundlands, and golden retrievers. (9) That's because these breeds have natural swimming instincts.

(10) The rescue dogs are taught to recognize signs of drowning and react quickly. (11) They learn to carry out solo rescues, as well as partner with human lifeguards. (12) After three years of schooling, the canine graduates are

considered expert “lifedogs” ready for duty. (13) They are put to work guarding beaches or patrolling offshore aboard Italy’s coast-guard boats and helicopters. (14) These dogs even perform rescues by jumping into the sea from helicopters. (15) The head of one school explains that most dogs actually enjoy the experience and “can’t wait to climb on the helicopter.” (16) We don’t force the dogs to jump.” (17) Trainers say that the dogs seem to consider the retrieving activities a rewarding game.

(18) By all reports, the canine rescue program is a success. (19) The dogs don’t tire as easily as their human counterparts, and they are faster swimmers. (20) A typical rescue involves a lifeguard pair—a dog and its trainer—heading out to help a swimmer in distress. (21) The “lifedog” usually wears a special red harness and tows a buoy that the swimmer can grab. (22) Sometimes the dog will tow a raft that a victim can ride. (23) If a victim is unable to respond, the dog is trained to grasp clothing or swimsuit material in its teeth and drag the person ashore.

(24) All in all, these dogs’ characteristics make them naturals at the job. (25) Their endurance allows them to swim great distances in rough water. (26) Their speed gets them to a struggling swimmer quickly. (27) Their instincts lead them to the safest currents and landing points. (28) And their innate heroism and love of challenges turning these well-trained dogs into first-class lifeguards.

23 How should sentence 3 be changed?

- A Insert a comma after **day**
- B Change **are likely** to **were likely**
- C Change **assistance** to **assistance**
- D Sentence 3 does not need to be changed.

24 What change, if any, should be made in sentence 5?

- F Change **agency** to **Agency**
- G Change **has launched** to **have launched**
- H Insert a comma after **program**
- J No change should be made.

25 What change, if any, needs to be made in sentence 7?

- A Change **Several** to **Severel**
- B Insert a comma after **Civitavecchia**
- C Change **teach** to **teaches**
- D No change needs to be made in this sentence.

- 26 What is the correct way to write sentence 8?
- F The school will train any type of dog that weighs at least 66 pounds and has a docile, obedient nature, but it favors Labradors, Newfoundlands, and golden retrievers.
 - G The school will train any type of dog that weighs at least 66 pounds and has a docile, obedient nature. But favors Labradors, Newfoundlands, and golden retrievers.
 - H The school will train any type of dog that weighs at least 66 pounds, has a docile, obedient nature, and favors Labradors, Newfoundlands, and golden retrievers.
 - J The sentence is written correctly in the paper.
-

- 27 What change, if any, needs to be made in sentence 13?
- A Insert a comma after *beaches*
 - B Change *patrolling* to *patroling*
 - C Change *Italys* to *Italy's*
 - D No change needs to be made in sentence 13.
-

- 28 What change should be made in sentence 15?
- F Change *explains* to *explaining*
 - G Change *experience* to *expereince*
 - H Change *can't* to *Can't*
 - J Delete the quotation marks at the end of the sentence

29 What change, if any, needs to be made in sentence 21?

- A** Change *wears* to *wear's*
- B** Change *towed* to *tows*
- C** Change *buoy* to *bouy*
- D** No change needs to be made in this sentence.

30 What is the correct way to write sentence 28?

- F** And their innate heroism and love of challenges. These turn these well-trained dogs into first-class lifeguards.
- G** And their innate heroism and love of challenges turn these well-trained dogs into first-class lifeguards.
- H** And their innate heroism turn these well-trained dogs into first-class lifeguards, it is also the love of challenges.
- J** Sentence 28 is written correctly in the paper.



WRITTEN COMPOSITION #1: Expository

Read the following quotation.

Weeds are flowers too, once you get to know them.
—A. A. Milne

First impressions can sometimes be misleading. Think carefully about this statement.

Write an essay explaining the importance of getting to know people before forming an opinion about them.

Be sure to —

- clearly state your thesis
- organize and develop your ideas effectively
- choose your words carefully
- edit your writing for grammar, mechanics, and spelling

USE THIS PREWRITING PAGE TO
PLAN YOUR COMPOSITION.

MAKE SURE THAT YOU WRITE YOUR COMPOSITION
ON THE LINED PAGE LABELED "COMPOSITION #1"
IN THE ANSWER DOCUMENT.

USE THIS PREWRITING PAGE TO
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**STAAR
English II
Writing
April 2013**

